researches (of which only *Rallus insignis*, Scl., seems to be peculiar) I have to add *Esacus magnirostris*, *Limosa melanuroides* and *L. uropygialis*, *Phalaropus angustirostris*, *Tringa minuta* and another species of *Tringa*, all temporary visitors to this country, besides *Ardea sinensis*. Of the *Porphyrio* I obtained only a young one, not sufficient to determine the species, which will, however, be a known one. Strange to say, I never observed *Strepsilas interpres*, although this bird, no doubt, also visits these shores. *Ardea sacra* is very rare.

Of the Natatores Mr. Brown sent home only *Sterna fuliginosa* and *Anous stolidus*; but I can add six species more, namely *Sterna bergii*, *S. longipennis*, *S. melanauchen*, *S. sinensis*, *Sula fusca*, and *Tachypetes aquilus*. I have never seen a *Gygis* nor a *Phaeton*, nor any member of the Procellariidæ here. Very strange is the absence of Ducks, especially of *Dendrocygna*; but it is likely they may occur in the interior or on the rivers in the southern portion of the island.

Matupi, New Britain.
March 1881.

XLII.—*More about* Cypselus horus, *H. et F.*

By T. Salvadori, C.M.Z.S.

In 1872 the Marquis Antinori and I jointly published a paper on *Cypselus horus*, H. et F.*, showing that the bird so named was not a variety of *C. affinis*, as von Heuglin† had thought, but a perfectly distinct species. We gave a full description of it, and pointed out the characteristics by which it may be distinguished from the allied species, *C. affinis*, J. E. Gr., and *C. cafer*, Licht. Quite recently Count Turati, of Milan, has sent me for inspection a *Cypselus* from Landana (Congo), collected by Dr. Lucan and M. Petit, and received through M. Bouvier. Although this specimen is not fully adult, it is quite evident, in my opinion, that it belongs to the same species as the specimen in the Turin Museum which

* Nota intorno al *Cypselus horus* (Atti R. Ac. Sc. Tor. viii. pp. 94–96).
† Orn. N.O.-Afr. i. p. 146.

Antinori and I have identified with *C. horus*. The young specimen in Count Turati's collection is smaller than the adult specimen in the Museum of Turin (long. tot. 140 millim., al. 124, caud. rectr. ext. 58); it has the feathers of the crown and the quills edged with whitish, and the white on the throat and rump a little greyish.

M. Bouvier has described and figured under the name of *Cypselus sharpii** a bird from Banane (Congo), near Landana; and I have not the least doubt that the specimen which he has sent now to Count Turati belongs to that species, which I identify with *C. horus*. His description of *C. sharpii* agrees with that of *C. horus*; only the dimensions are smaller, most likely from the specimen described being not fully grown. A little later Messrs. Sharpe and Bouvier† have stated that "C. sharpii *a de grandes affinités avec* Cypselus horus, *mais en est parfaitement distinct*;" but they do not say what the differences are, and I have failed to discover them myself.

Again, Prof. Barboza du Bocage, in his valuable work the 'Ornithologie d'Angola,' gives the description of a *Cypselus finschi* from Angola, which I am sure is the same as *C. horus* and *C. sharpii*. It seems that even Prof. Barboza had recognized that his bird was the same as *C. horus*, so that I do not quite understand why he should have given it a new name.

After the above identifications the synonymy of *C. horus* will stand as follows:—

Cypselus horus, H. et F.

Cypselus caffer, Brehm (nec Licht.), Journ. f. Orn. 1853, Extraheft, p. 96.

Cypselus galilejensis, Antin. Cat. p. 24 (1864) (nec Naumannia) (Sennaar); Salvad. Atti R. Ac. Sc. Tor. v. p. 727 (1870).

Cypselus affinis, var., Heugl. Orn. N.O.-Afr. i. p. 146 (1869).

Cypselus horus, Hartl. et Finsch, MS.; Heugl. *l. c.*; Salvad. et Antin. Atti R. Ac. Sc. Tor. viii. p. 94 (1872); Heugl. Orn.

* Bull. Soc. Zool. France, i. p. 228, pl. vi. f. 1.

† Ibid. p. 303.

N.O.-Afr. ii. p. liv (1873); Antin. et Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civ. Gen. iv. p. 434 (1873).

Cypselus affinis, Boc. (nec J. E. Gray) Jorn. Sc. Acad. Lisboa, n. xii. p. 269 (1871) (Angola).

Cypselus sharpii, Bouv. Bull. Soc. Zool. Franc. i. p. 228, pl. vi. f. 1 (1876) (Banane, Congo); Sharpe et Bouv. ibid. p. 303.

Cypselus finschi, Boc. Orn. Ang. p. 159 (1877) (Angola).

Turin, Zoological Museum.
May 10th, 1881.

XLIII.—*Description of a supposed new* Aplonis *from Vaté (Sandwich) Island, New Hebrides.* By E. L. Layard, C.M.G., F.Z.S., &c., H. B. M. Consul in New Caledonia. *With Remarks by* Canon Tristram, F.R.S.

We have had for some time in our possession an example of an *Aplonis* which did not occur to L. L. during his visits to Vaté, but which was subsequently forwarded to us in alcohol. Unfortunately we cannot make out the sex; but it is either a young male or else a female. On this account we have hesitated to describe it, but will not longer delay, as we see no chance of obtaining more specimens from the same locality. We propose, from the rufous colouring of the wings, to designate the species

Aplonis rufipennis, n. sp.

General colour above brown, with a rufous gloss throughout; front paler than the top and back of the head; between the eye and the nares a blackish patch; wing-primaries brown, anterior edges bright rufous chestnut, this colour prevailing on the lower flanks and upper tail-coverts; spurious wing and two or three outer secondaries almost black, forming a well-marked patch on the upper edge of the wing. Chin, throat, and underparts grey-drab, the drab prevailing on the two first-named places; under tail-coverts much tinged with rufous. Length 7″ 3‴, wing 4″, tail 2″ 6‴, tarse 13‴, bill 1″.

Neither in Gray's 'Hand-list' nor in his 'Birds of Tropical Islands' is there any mention of an *Aplonis* from the New